



THE INFORMER

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DIRECTIONS



Kela E. Thomas
Director

We have just completed a challenging year. Thank you for your effort, energy, resilience and commitment.

Below are some of our Major Accomplishments of 2013:

- SROC Results: Saved the State \$5,276,329
- SROC Results: Cost Savings Reinvestment: \$1,846,715
- Hired 81 Agents since January 2013
- Reintroduced Agent Retention Pay Plan and Training Incentive
- Facilitated the First Leadership Academy for staff
- Established a new lease for HP tablets
- Added 20 cars to the fleet
- Hired first IT Trainer
- Hired first Agency Recruiter
- First PPP Agent Only Class at CJA
- Hired Administrative Manager for Parole Board - To work on Board Accreditation
- Established A Victim Services Newsletter
- Completed a statewide Building Security Assessment
- Established a Cyber Security Task Force
- Disbursed \$5,480,376 to victims of crime
- Received \$328,500 through a Justice Assistance Grant to automate records and forms
- Instituted a Hiring Practices Taskforce to review practices and policies
- Participated in 10 multi-agency emergency management exercises and security deployments
- Said Goodbye to GroupWise and Hello to Microsoft Outlook E-mail System

*As we start 2014 with greater clarity and a renewed commitment to continuous growth, the EMT and I just ask one more thing of you — **BE BETTER.***

- ♦ *Be better in your work — think creatively, efficiently and get work smarter not harder*
- ♦ *Be better with your teammates — in how you support each other, how you communicate and how you care about them as people.*
- ♦ *Be better in your community — in how you give of your time and effort to make your town, city or neighborhood a great place to live.*
- ♦ *Be better in your relationships out of the office — in how you communicate, encourage and support each other. Your professionalism will sustain you.*
- ♦ *Be better to yourself — in your self-talk, in your personal expectations and in your commitment to being all that you can be.*

Thank you for your loyalty and effort. We look forward to a great 2014!

Congratulations to Our 2013 Annual Employee Award Winners!



Molly Leake

Supervisor of the Year: AIC Chester County

AIC Molly Leake is a 20-year veteran of PPP and has been an Agent and Team Leader prior to her current position. She is a COMPAS instructor, teaches at the three-week Agent Basic class, and is an active participant for EPICS training. The nomination for Leake noted that she "takes pride in every task she encounters and goes above and beyond to ensure the best work is presented." In addition, AIC Leake is a leader in the Chester County law enforcement community with close relationships with the sheriff, police chiefs and solicitor's office.

Camilla Cheeseboro

Agent of the Year: Agent, Sumter County

Agent Camilla Cheeseboro is an eight-year Senior Agent, working in Sumter County. One of her nomination forms noted that "offenders will say she can be hard, but they honestly feel she has done all she can to help them too." Cheeseboro often works late and frequently volunteers for warrant roundups with the Sumter Police Department and Sheriff's Office. She is a mentor to new Agents and supervises all cases at the Any Length Recovery Center for substance abuse treatment, a challenging task. She is well respected by her peers and other law enforcement officials.



Dawn Farish

Employee of the Year: Agent, Colleton County

Agent Dawn Farish is a caseload Agent and Team Leader who has been employed with the Department for 24 years. Her nomination form noted that she had enthusiastically taken on additional cases to support office turnover. In addition, Dawn finds time to be the Assign-A-Highway liaison and has always pitched in to assist whenever needed.

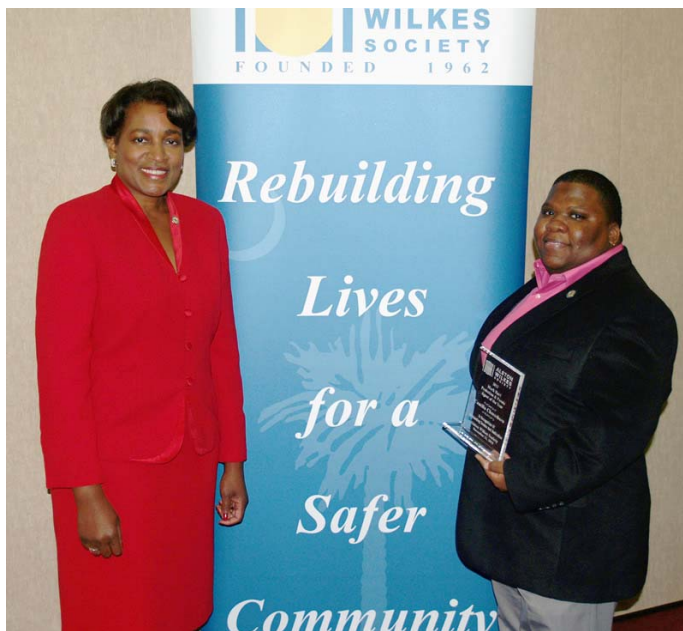
Debbie Dickerson

Administrative Support Staff of the Year: HSS/Office Manager, Anderson County

HSS Debbie Dickerson has been employed with the Department for 24 years. Her nominee lauds her leadership and willingness to assist in other counties that need training or are short-handed. "She treats all the employees with the utmost respect. She is very considerate of everyone and accepts ideas from her group so that their input is heard and carried out to ensure the office runs smoothly."



Alston Wilkes Names Cheeseboro as 2013 Mark Hart Award Winner



Sumter Agent Camilla Cheeseboro received the Mark Hart Probation & Parole Agent of the Year Award during a luncheon hosted by the Alston Wilkes Society recently. The eight-year PPP veteran received the award for her exemplary work with offenders over the years. In her remarks at the luncheon, PPP Director Kela Thomas said of Cheeseboro, "She is committed to the Department and knows what is expected of her and is always preparing offenders toward becoming productive citizens, providing assistance to the courts and to build and protect public trust. She has a positive attitude and is always willing to assist her coworkers." The award is named for the Spartanburg Agent Mark Hart, who died of cancer. The Alston Wilkes Society assists homeless veterans, former offenders and at-risk youth in rebuilding their lives.

SCDPPPS Director Kela Thomas poses with Agent Camilla Cheeseboro following the Alston Wilkes Annual Award Luncheon in November.

SCDPPPS Participate in Five Points Deployment

The City of Columbia Police Department recently requested assistance from the SCDPPPS to augment their security personnel in the Five Points area of Columbia for the final three University of South Carolina home football games. This assistance involved football games for the dates of November 16th against University of Florida, November 23rd against Coastal Carolina, and November 30th against Clemson. Each of the details began with a 10:00 pm briefing at the Columbia Police Department South Region Headquarters. Regional Director Chris Stepp served as the Department Incident Commander for all three details with Special Operations Director Randy Bumgarner assisting him with the November 23rd detail and Regional Director Derek Brown assisting with the November 30th detail. The Department provided ten Probation and Parole Agents for each detail, not including the PPP command staff.

All detail staff conducted themselves in a professional manner, representing the Department well. There were no major problems or issues reported by Regional Director Stepp or the Columbia Police Department Incident Command Staff. One known offender under PPP supervision was arrested, which occurred November 23rd. The GPS Operations Center was notified and asked to advise the supervising county of the arrest. Listed below are the Agents for the three details:

PPP Incident Commanders: Chris Stepp, Randy Bumgarner, and Derek Brown

Jennifer Brice, Field Operations
Corey Campbell, Chester
Alan Collins, Florence
Bruce Garrick, Richland
James Graham, Sumter
Jerry Hamberis, Chesterfield
Noel Husbands, Richland

Nikesha Jacobs, Richland
Laura Krautler, Richland
Anthony Moffatt, York
Donald Murphy, Aiken
Jason Nettles, Greenville
Nathan Rizer, Richland

Daniel Schirra, Lexington
Willie Sellers, York
Courtney Smith, Richland
Venitra Stocker, Richland
William Sumter, Sumter
Antonio Vaught, Dillon
Jenny Whiteside, Chester



New Attorney — Octavia Wright



Attorney Octavia Wright recently joined the PPP family from the South Carolina Human Affairs Commission. A native of Easley, South Carolina, Octavia is Garnet and Black through and through, having received three degrees from the University of South Carolina. After earning her bachelor's in Biology, she earned a master's degree in Student Personnel Services and worked in

student affairs for seven years. After receiving her law degree, she worked in private practice handling civil cases in probate, family law, worker's compensation and personal injury matters. She then became Staff Counsel with the Human Affairs Commission, working there for over four years. Octavia now lives in the Northeast, where she enjoys reading and running. She has run several half-marathons and one full marathon. With her civil law background, Octavia is a great asset to the Department's legal team, but she is also enjoying learning about the criminal side of things. "I'm loving it," she says. "I love being challenged, and expanding my horizons. I'm enjoying the experience."

PPP Welcomes Administrative Manager — Mollie Taylor



Mollie DuPriest Taylor brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the Parole Board Support Section as our new Administrative Manager. She has a background in education, as she received a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education at the University of South Carolina and graduated Cum Laude. She also received

her law degree from the USC School of Law. She has served as a member as well as being the Director of the Juvenile Parole Board for the South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice. Mollie comes as a practicing attorney at The Taylor Law Firm in Lexington, SC. We are extremely lucky to have Mollie join the PPP family, as she will play a vital role in the accreditation process for our Parole Board. Mollie is very excited to work with the Parole Board and is enjoying the opportunity to serve the citizens of South Carolina in this capacity.

2nd Annual HSS Conference Highlights

The 2nd Annual Human Services Specialists (HSS) Training Conference was held on October 23rd at the South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice. This year's theme "In My Shoes," was chosen in recognition of the hard work of our HSS staff. Training presentations included: *Chemical Weapons Refresher*; *Purchasing Card Training*, *Working with Transgender Offenders*, and *Move It or Lose It*. SCPPA President Quincy Avinger and Past SC-NABCJ President Thomas Scott gave a brief overview on their respective associations. Several HSS staff were recognized for 28 years or more of dedicated service to PPP. They are Daniela McMillan-Barnwell, Sylvia Chisholm-Chester, Katie McFadden-Williamsburg, Barbara Downey-Beaufort, Melvia Gayle-Clarendon, and Phyllis Reeves-Aiken.



The Committee included Training Coordinator and Conference Chair Katherine Boyd, Aiken County HSS and Conference Co-Chair Lisa Kenner, Training Coordinator Jacqueline Baker, Field Training Coordinators Summer Barnett - Spartanburg, Debbie Dickerson-Anderson, Billie Lundy-Lexington, Beulah Vernon-Georgetown, GPS Program Assistant Cathy Foust, Ignition Interlock Device Program Director Ruth Ann Cartwright, and Field Operations Executive Administrative Assistant Kim Phillips. A special thank you to volunteers Melissa Ray, Director of Training Compliance and Professional Development, Stephen Gunnells Training Coordinator, and Executive Assistants Loretta Goodwin - Director's Office, Larissa Chess-Administration and Dawn Nichols- Paroles and Pardons.

Overall, the conference was a great success with extremely positive feedback. The committee is looking forward to hosting this conference for many years to come!

Welcome to the PPP Family! - New Hires June 2—December 1, 2013

KENNETH ADDIS - PICKENS	KIM PHILLIPS - FIELD OPERATIONS
ROSS ALFORD - YORK	HANNA PRICE - SPARTANBURG
DEANNA AVIGNONE - HORRY	AUDREY REED - EXECUTIVE OFFICE
ASHLEY BATES - HORRY	STEVEN RIESTER - LEXINGTON
WILSON BENNETT - FLORENCE	TIMOTHY RILEY - GREENVILLE
KATLYN BLEASE - GREENVILLE	BRITTANY SCRUGGS - SPARTANBURG
ADAM BRYSON - GREENWOOD	KIMBERLY SHAW - FLORENCE
DIANNE BUNKER - RICHLAND	EBONEY SHULER - BARNWELL
KATHRYN CALLAHAN - LAURENS	JENNA SISCO - SPARTANBURG
VINCENT CANNARELLA - CHARLESTON	AARON SMITH - PICKENS
LISA CARRIGG - FIOS	ANTHONY SMITH - HORRY
BRIAN CAUBLE - LANCASTER	KRISTIN SMOKES - AIKEN
KATRINA CHARLES - TRAINING COMPLIANCE AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	NICHOLAS STAFFORD - DORCHESTER
KENDRICK CLARK - ORANGEBURG	RACHAEL STANFORTH - RICHLAND
MONICA CREECH - ALLENDALE	CORNELIUS STERLING - GREENVILLE
REBECCA CREECH - IGNITION INTERLOCK	BRIAN STRICKLIN - PROCUREMENT
LAWRENCE CREED - AIKEN	MELVIN SUBER - NEWBERRY
BRENDA DEWALT - SALUDA	MOLLIE TAYLOR - PAROLE BOARD
JONATHAN DUNCAN - AIKEN	SAMUEL THOMPSON - GREENVILLE
KATELYN DUNCAN - GREENVILLE	SYLVIA THOMPSON BOAGS - CALHOUN
ANGELA ENSLEY - SPARTANBURG	WILLIAM THRASHER - LEXINGTON
INDIA FLUDD - DORCHESTER	JANELLA TOLBERT - CHARLESTON
JACOB FREEMAN - HORRY	MARY VARIN - GREENVILLE
MONIQUE GLOVER - RICHLAND	TRISTA WANNAMAKER - RECORDS
KHOURY HAMMOND - RICHLAND	LACY WEST - GREENWOOD
LAURA HARVEY - HAMPTON	TYRA WHITE - FLORENCE
JOSEPH JAMES - COLLETON	TREVOR WHITFIELD - GREENVILLE
EDWARDIEA JENKINS LAMBERT - ORANGEBURG	AIMEE WIELER - RESEARCH AND EVALUATION
ANDREW JONES - SPARTANBURG CENTER	TRACY WILSON - AIKEN
TEHRAN JONES - COLLETON	MATTHEW WOOLBRIGHT - EDGEFIELD
KEVIN KENNEDY - SPARTANBURG	OCTAVIA WRIGHT - LEGAL SERVICES
ALEXANDER KING - GREENWOOD	
CLIFFORD KING - ANDERSON	
FORREST LINDMAN - GREENVILLE	
JESSICA MACON - LANCASTER	
SHEILA MARSHALL - RICHLAND	
KRISTIN MASSETTI - GREENVILLE	
SHERIDA MCLEOD - ORANGEBURG	
KENDALL MILLHOUSE - ANDERSON	
CHRISTIAN MITCHELL - CHARLESTON	
LUCIUS MOORE - CHARLESTON	
ALYSSA ADRIANA MUSKOVIN - YORK	
CHRISTOPHER ORSI - CHARLESTON	
ELOISA PAREDES - ANDERSON	
MARVA PATTERSON - COLUMBIA CENTER	

Bookard Honor by SC-NABCJ

Congratulations to Deputy Director for Administration Sonya Bookard for being selected as the recipient of the SC Chapter of the National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice Distinguished Service Award at their annual conference in December. This award is given to an individual or organization who has demonstrated unselfish dedication and commitment to the field of criminal justice or to the community.



PPP Embraces the Season of Giving

In this season of giving, many of our county offices have shared the true meaning of the season by reaching out to help the needy in their communities. This is just one more way that PPP is making a difference in the communities we serve. Here are a few examples of the kindness and generosity being shown by our PPP family.

Sprreading Holiday Cheer

The Dillon County Probation and Parole Office blessed four offenders and their families this Thanksgiving Holiday season. Throughout the months of October and November, Agents asked their offenders to bring items for a canned good drive. Many offenders participated and were very happy that they were able to give back to their communities (positive reinforcement). A few days before Thanksgiving, Agent Eunice Thomas and AIC Antonio Vaught separated the large amounts of canned good items that the offenders donated. They then went out and purchased two turkeys, two hams, and other trimmings to go along with the canned goods and delivered the items to the four identified families. The offenders were very grateful and surprised. The Dillon County office will continue this tradition annually.

Provided by Antonio Vaught, Agent-In-Charge, Dillon County



Stuffing Their Stockings

The Pickens County office collected several toys and contacted offenders to give gifts to those in need of help with Christmas for their children this year.

Provided by Amanda Donald, Pickens County



Caring for the Homeless

The Florence County office donated canned goods to a local homeless shelter.

**Provided by Alan Collins,
Agent-In-Charge, Florence & Marion Counties**

PPP Embraces the Season of Giving

Toys for Tots

For several years now, the Cherokee County office has identified a needy family that is having trouble providing Christmas gifts for their children. This year, they were able to support three families. The staff will provide children's Christmas gifts for a family with an 8-month-old and 7-year-old; a family with a 3-year-old and 6-year-old; and finally to a single mother who is expecting soon. This photo shows some of the gifts collected.

Provided by Kevin Rhodes, Agent-In-Charge, Cherokee County



The Reason for the Season

Recently, the Salvation Army made a public plea in the Orangeburg newspaper because of their inability to keep up with the demands of supplying food to those in need. The spokesperson stated that due to the increase in the number unemployed and recent cuts in government assistance, their food pantry was slowly dwindling. After reading the article, the Orangeburg County Office decided to hold an in-office food drive in lieu of having a Christmas meal for the staff. A collection was made and given to the Salvation Army so that there might be a few more families fed during this Holiday Season.

Provided by Kim Brantley, Agent-In-Charge, Orangeburg County

Lending a Helping Hand

Berkeley County adopted a family and provided them with groceries, which included a turkey and ham for a meal.

Provided by David Fashion, Agent-In-Charge, Berkeley County



Harvest Hope Salutes PPP

At the Central Office, staff donated canned goods and nonperishable food items to Harvest Hope Food Bank of the Midlands. PPP was recognized as one of the top five state agencies for donations in 2013.

New Victim Services Director Debbie Curtis



Debora "Debbie" Curtis recently joined SCDPPPS as the new Director of Victim Services. She was born and raised in New York, NY but has called South Carolina "home" since 1990. Debbie has extensive experience in various facets of the criminal justice system. She began her career in the criminal justice system as a paralegal for the 5th

Circuit Solicitor's Office. In 1992, Debbie went to the Richland County Sheriff's Department under a VOCA grant and worked as a child abuse victim advocate. In 1996 she returned to the Richland County Solicitor's Office to work as a victim advocate/paralegal in a prosecution unit that specialized in child abuse cases. In 1999, Debbie joined the S.C. Prosecution Coordination Commission as a victim advocate and worked with Special Prosecutor Suzanne Mayes. She then went to work in the Office of the Governor as the Crime Victims' Ombudsman. After a seven-year break to raise her daughter, Debbie returned to the workforce in October 2011 as a paralegal with the Office of Disciplinary Counsel in the Supreme Court before the opportunity arose to once again be the Crime Victims' Ombudsman for South Carolina. Debbie's knowledge of the justice arena is a great asset to PPP and the crime victims in this state.

CJA Graduation—August 9th

Two new Agents joined PPP in August after graduating from the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy (from left): Jacob Graf, Richland County; (Director Kela Thomas); and Jeremy Brunson, Pickens.



Seasons Greetings

CJA Graduation—October 11th

Graduating from the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy on October 11th were Timothy Hurst - Greenville County; Felipa Lawson - Newberry County; (Deputy Director for Field Operations Scott Norton); Amy Ramirez - Charleston County; and Amberelle Boyle - York County.



CJA Graduation—November 1st

New Criminal Justice Academy graduate Hunter Shaw (center) received his badge on November 1st and headed to the Richland County office. With him are (left) Assistant AIC Stacy Bartkovich and Deputy Director for Field Operations Scott Norton.



PPP Basic Graduation—October 25th



Twenty-three new employees completed the PPP Basic Course in October. Congratulations to Deanna Avignone - Horry, Adam Bryson - Greenwood, Joseph Cannarella - Charleston, Kendrick Clark - Orangeburg, Drew Creed - Aiken, Jonathan Duncan - Aiken, Edwardiea Jenkins-Lambert - Orangeburg, Tehran Jones - Colleton, Kevin Kennedy - Spartanburg, Alexander King - Greenwood, Harrison Moore - Charleston, Alyssa Muskovin - York, Christopher Orsi - Charleston, Hanna Price - Spartanburg, Timothy Riley - Greenville, Brittany Scruggs - Spartanburg, Eboney Shuler - Barnwell, Jenna Sisco - Spartanburg, Kristin Smokes - Aiken, Trent Stafford - Dorchester, Cornelius Sterling - Greenville, Blake Stone - Greenwood, and Janella Tolbert - Charleston. Honor Graduate Alyssa Muskovin scored a 99 on the final exam.

PPP Basic Graduation—November 22nd



Another group of 23 graduates received their certificates on November 22nd after encouraging words from guest speaker The Honorable Elise Partin, Mayor of the City of Cayce. The graduates (in alphabetical order): Ross Alford – York; Brian Cauble – Lancaster; Katrina Charles – Central; India Fludd – Dorchester; Khoury Hammond – Richland; Jessica Macon – Lancaster; Kendall Millhouse – Anderson; Christian Mitchell – Charleston; Sherida McLeod – Orangeburg; Eloisa Paredes – Anderson; Debbie Parker – Central; Steven Riester – Lexington; Aaron Smith – Pickens; Anthony Smith – Horry; Rachael Stanforth – Richland; Melvin Suber – Newberry; Samuel Thompson – Greenville; Will Thrasher – Lexington; Kayla Underwood – Oconee; Maddy Varin – Greenville; Tyra White – Florence; Tracy Wilson – Aiken; Blake Woolbright – Edgefield. Honor Graduate Rachel Stanforth also scored a 99 on the final exam.

**South Carolina
Department of
Probation, Parole and
Pardon Services**

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The Honorable Nikki Haley
Governor

Kela E. Thomas
Director

Jodi Gallman
*Director of Executive
Programs
Newsletter Editor*

Arnise N. Moultrie
*Office of Executive Programs
Newsletter Designer*

AGENCY MISSION

To **prepare** offenders under our supervision toward becoming productive members of the community;

to **provide** assistance to the victims of crimes, the courts and the Parole Board; and

to **protect** public trust and safety.

AGENCY MOTTO

**PREPARE, PROVIDE
AND PROTECT**

Promotions: June 2, — December 1, 2013

Natarsha Adams
Chad Beard
Lewis Brown
Eden Castillo
Stacia Clark
LaQuandra Cook
Rhonda Elliott
Leigh-Michelle Jones
Jeremy Kittrell
Deirdre Mack
Stacy Murrell
Allan Norfus
Larry Patton
Andrea Plumley
Tara Tyler
Quincy Williams

Recruitment, Volunteer & Intern Coordinator
Field Operations Specialist
Team Leader
Team Leader
HR Manager
Team Leader
Team Leader
Team Leader
Team Leader
Team Leader
Team Leader
Director of Parole Board Support
Office Manager
Assistant Agent- In- Charge
Director of SD&IT

Executive Programs
Field Operations
Spartanburg County
Greenville County
Administration
Lancaster County
Horry County
Dorchester County
Orangeburg County
Florence County
Greenville County
Greenville County
Paroles & Pardons
Greenville County
Charleston County
Administration

Mark Your Calendars for These Upcoming Events

JANUARY

January is **National Blood Donor Month**. At PPP's Central Office, we kick off each year with donating blood. Please participate in the blood drives in your area. Together, we can continue to make a difference to save lives. If you are visiting Central Office on January 14th, take a moment to join your co-workers to donate blood. See you then!

National Mentoring Month is also celebrated by the Department. Each January, we join other organizations in recognizing those men and women who positively impact the lives of those we supervise. With our community partners, we assist offenders with their reentry process. The numbers are in and "Mentoring Works"! During the month, recruit a Mentor and change someone's life.

FEBRUARY

February is **National American Heart Month**. Show your support by wearing red on Friday February 7th – National Wear Red Day – to increase awareness about heart disease, the Number One killer of women.



PPP Book Nook

The PPP Book Nook is designed to bring you thought-provoking, inspiring, and motivating books that can encourage you to reach new heights in your professional and personal life. You are encouraged to submit books for review that we may share in future issues of *The Informer*. Enjoy!

Make Today Count: The Secret of Your Success Is Determined by Your Daily Agenda

Author: John C. Maxwell

Drawing from the text of the *Business Week* bestseller *Today Matters*, this condensed, revised edition boils down John C. Maxwell's 12 daily practices to their very essence, giving maximum impact in minimal time. Presented in a quick-read format, this version is designed to be read cover to cover in one sitting or taken in as brief lessons in a few spare minutes each day. It covers such topics as: priorities, health, family, finances, values, and growth. Readers will learn how to make decisions on important matters and apply those decisions daily to put them on a path to more successful, productive, and fulfilling lives.

Source: <http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/2735207-make-today-count>